



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
JOHN BALDWIN, DIRECTOR

November 15, 2011

Iowa Vertical Infrastructure Program

c/o Jennifer Moehlmann, Administrator
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

Prior to the Vertical Infrastructure Program (VIP), the Department of Corrections struggled with maintaining its facilities and being a good steward with state assets. The Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee (VIAC) is an excellent example of public and public interests coming together to address the stewardship of state assets.

The program has addressed a number of life, safety, and security projects that without support could have resulted in infrastructure failure. These failures could require closure of all or a portion of a facility. As life, safety, and health major maintenance projects continue to be performed and with future increases in funding, the availability of future routine maintenance funds would take on more importance.

Critical maintenance projects have avoided potential closure at six prison facilities. Safely relocating large numbers of offenders is very difficult to perform. Those projects addressed repairs or replacement of electrical primaries, building structures, fire alarm systems, domestic water production, boiler controls, utility tunnels, security systems, and medical clinic ventilation.

VIP places the oversight in the hands of the citizens, the ultimate owners of state assets. Prior to the VIAC, agency requests for maintenance were met with claims of it "being self serving". Corrections is concerned that without this program it may be a return to the conditions that led to the establishment of VIAC.

VIAC and the program it administers is a key operational component that Corrections relies on to perform its mission. Major and routine maintenance investment by this program has significantly increased the quality of state assets and improved the life, safety, and health impacts to public, staff, and offenders lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mickel Edwards".

Mickel Edwards, P.E
Facilities Engineer
Department of Corrections

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:
We Protect the Public, Employees, and Offenders from Victimization.

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